United Nations E/CN.6/2009/11

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 December 2008

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-third session
2-13 March 2009
Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Strengthening the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report was prepared in response to resolution 52/3 of the Commission on the Status of Women. It summarizes the efforts of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to strengthen and expand its training and research activities in the following areas: (a) gender, migration and development; (b) governance and women's political participation; and (c) gender, peace and security, in accordance with its strategic framework for 2008-2011.

The report also describes the progress the Institute has made to secure sufficient funds to finance its core activities and its continued efforts to collaborate with United Nations system entities, international organizations, governmental institutions, national gender machineries, research and training institutes, civil society organizations and the private sector.

08-65292 (E) 090109

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 52/3, the Commission on the Status of Women requested the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), in accordance with its mandate, to collaborate with the United Nations system, national machinery, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in promoting international cooperation to foster women's empowerment and gender equality, including through, inter alia, the promotion of better access to education for women and girls, and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in all policies and programmes. The Commission also called on the Institute to continue to assist countries upon their request, in promoting gender equality and empowerment of women through training programmes. In paragraph 8 of the resolution, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the resolution to the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, in 2009, through the Commission at its fifty-third session. The present report responds to the above mandate.

II. Activities of the Executive Board of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

2. The Institute functions under the authority of an Executive Board that is composed of 10 Member States[1] elected by the Economic and Social Council.

3. During its fifth session, the Executive Board approved the Institute's workplan and budget for 2009, a networking strategy, a medium-term resource mobilization strategy to secure a more sustainable financial base to support future operations and decisions and recommendations of the Institute.

III. Implementation of the strategic framework 2008-2011

4. The Institute continued to implement its new strategic framework 2008-2011,[2] which carries forward the priorities established in the previous strategic framework (2004-2007). The current framework provides for the consolidation of the Institute's research and training programmes and the enhancement of its knowledge-management capacity to ensure that research results have a concrete impact on policy and programme formulation and implementation and contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals.

5. In the implementation of its strategic framework 2008-2011, the Institute continues to work towards ensuring long-term financial stability by increasing the level of voluntary contributions for both its core operations and extrabudgetary projects, and to consolidate its research and capacity-building activities in the areas of gender, migration and development; gender, governance and women's political participation; and gender, peace and security. The Institute also seeks to respond to

[1] Members for the period 2007-2009 are: Belarus, Egypt, Grenada, Honduras (President), Israel, Philippines (Vice-President/Rapporteur), Slovakia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic (Vice-President) and Zimbabwe.

[2] INSTRAW/EB/2007/R.3/Rev.1.

the needs of women worldwide related to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, such as poverty alleviation, financing for development, micro-enterprise development and knowledge management.

6. In August 2008, the Institute held the first virtual meeting of the Gender Training Community of Practice Working Group, which brought together experts who will be responsible for coordinating the development and maintenance of the Community of Practice. In September 2008, the Institute launched the virtual platform for the Community of Practice and in December 2008 concluded a comprehensive update of the Gender Training Wiki with additional information and tools to make it more interactive. Also in September 2008, the Gender Training Community of Practice launched its first virtual dialogue, which brought together experts in the fields of capacity development, gender and knowledge management in order to share their experiences with gender training as a tool for gender mainstreaming and sustainable development, identify recommendations for strengthening gender training, and discuss how to move forward with the Community of Practice. It is intended that the Community of Practice will serve as a pilot for the development of other communities of practice related to the Institute's strategic and thematic areas of work.

A. Gender, migration and development

7. In the area of migration and development, the Institute completed its paper on a revised theoretical framework, entitled "Crossing Borders II: Migration and Development from a Gender Perspective", which builds on the reflections and analyses presented in the original paper "Crossing Borders: Gender, Remittances and Development" (INSTRAW, 2005). Prepared within a development framework that places gender equality at its centre, the framework explores emerging themes on the relationship between economic migration and development, with a specific focus on the new gender division of labour and the specific labour niches for migrants in different contexts. In addition to furthering the Institute's research on the structural causes of gender inequalities in migration and development, the new theoretical framework includes research of migratory policies from the perspective of migrants' rights.

8. "Crossing Borders II" also includes an initial exploration and analysis of the issue of global care chains. Global care chains are created as a result of the so-called care crisis generated by the inadequate public response to the increasing number of women in developed countries entering the labour market, generating the demand for domestic and care labour. This care crisis has opened up opportunities in developed countries, mostly for migrant women, which have resulted in the creation of global care chains as migrant women leave their own reproductive labour to other women in their countries of origin (usually either a female family member or a hired worker).

9. To further examine a response to these challenges, in August 2008, the Institute initiated a new project on the theme "Building networks: women and global care chains in Latin America". The aim of the project is to examine the creation of global care chains through four case studies in labour markets in Bolivia-Spain, Ecuador-Spain, Peru-Chile and Peru-Spain. Funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the project will formulate proposals that place the issue of care on the development agenda, in particular in contexts of women's reproductive role and gender equality.

10. In an effort to integrate its work in this area with its other thematic areas, in particular with the area dealing with gender, governance and women's political participation, the Institute prepared an internal concept paper entitled "Drawing links: women, decision-making and economic participation at the local level".

11. To enrich its theoretical framework and research methodologies, the Institute launched its first virtual dialogue among experts focusing on the theme "Gender, migration, remittances and development: towards a participatory research framework", held from 8 September to 3 October 2008. Participants included more than 70 experts, academics and researchers from over 20 countries.

12. This initial dialogue was followed up with a second dialogue, on the theme "Gender, migration, remittances and development: creating gender sensitive migration policy", conducted from 3 to 21 November 2008, in order to identify current issues in migration policy from a gender perspective and to compile good practices and lessons learned from existing experiences. Participants included more than 220 experts, academics and researchers from over 40 countries. This follow-up networking activity aimed to bring the conceptual discussions of gender, migration and development issues to the level of concrete policy and programme recommendations.

13. The joint study of INSTRAW and the International Fund for Agricultural Development entitled "Gender, Remittances and Local Rural Development: The case of Filipino migration to Italy" was launched in English in May 2008, and has been translated into Italian and Spanish and published online. As a follow-up to the study, the Institute, in collaboration with the Filipino Women's Council, developed a guide for Filipino migrants living in Italy, which includes inputs provided during the workshops held in October 2007 with relevant stakeholders in Italy and the Philippines.

14. To complete this project, the Institute published three policy briefs that highlight the recommendations drawn from the research study. The briefs translate the research findings into concrete policy recommendations on the impact of remittances on food security, remittances and banking/financial services, and co-development policies and initiatives. A number of the findings and recommendations of the project were discussed at the Global Forum on Migration and Development, held in Manila on 30 October 2008.

15. As part of the joint INSTRAW/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project, on the theme "Gender and remittances: building gender-sensitive local development", the reports of the field research component of the project have been received from the research teams in Albania, the Dominican Republic, Lesotho, Morocco, the Philippines and Senegal. Also, as part of this project, INSTRAW and UNDP have initiated policy dialogue at the national evel.

16. Field work was initiated on the INSTRAW collaborative qualitative study entitled "Gender dynamics in South-South migrations", by the Institute of Economic and Social Research of the Rafael Landívar University of Guatemala and the Danish International Development Agency. The objective of this study is to examine the migration of Guatemalan women to the south of Mexico. The study focuses on young rural women migrants who are part of transnational households, who work in the area of domestic service and live in their places of employment.

17. Joint activities with strategic partners continued to be an essential part of the Institute's work in this area. The Institute finalized agreements with the

International Organization for Migration on migration and remittances in Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa; with Emory University on the situation of Dominican and Guatemalan migrant women and remittances in Atlanta, Georgia, United States; with the Network of Public Universities of the Coffee Region (Alma Mater) in Colombia on the inclusion of gender in its new Master's Degree Programme in International Migration; and with Colombian non-governmental organization Sisma Mujer, on the impact of co-development and remittances on human rights from a gender perspective.

B. Gender, governance and women's political participation at the local level

18. Since February 2006, the Institute has been implementing a three-year project entitled "Strengthening governance with a gender perspective and women's political participation at the local level", with funding from AECID. As demonstrated through the research of the Institute, women's role in shaping the political agenda needs to be significantly enhanced and their numbers in decision-making positions in local governments increased. The Institute considers that integrating a gender perspective into governance and current decentralization processes is fundamental to ensuring an equitable and inclusive sustainable human development. In addition to action-oriented research in this area, the Institute works to raise awareness among major stakeholders of the importance of women's participation in local decision-making, initiates policy dialogues and builds local institutional capacities for gender-sensitive public policy formulation. The work of the Institute in this area is being carried out in 10 countries in Latin America and three countries in the Maghreb region.

19. In March 2008, a workshop was held at the Institute's headquarters in Santo Domingo, on the theme "Challenges and opportunities for greater participation of women in local governments in Latin America". The workshop identified new challenges and opportunities to promote greater political participation of women in decision-making posts at the local level. It also resulted in the establishment of a consultative committee to strengthen gender-sensitive governance and the political participation of women in Latin America at the local level, as well as the development of a concrete workplan for 2008-2009. As part of the workplan, a capacity-building phase was initiated with activities in Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Guatemala. The project aims to support the creation of a nationally based organization of municipal women in Costa Rica and to strengthen the management skills of municipal women in Guatemala, in particular through the use of information and communications technology. The activities are being carried out in partnership with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), national machinery for advancement of women, and non-governmental organizations. In Bolivia and Ecuador, the project also aims at enhancing women's skills, at the municipal level, in leadership and decision-making, as well as in communications, including the use of information and communications technology.

20. The Institute has developed specific capacity-building tools to promote women's participation and political leadership in local government planning and management. In particular, it concluded the "Pathways to learning" initiative, which aimed to facilitate the exchange of experiences and knowledge among women in decision-making positions in local government. This innovative capacity-building

methodology promotes learning by bringing together actors from different but related contexts in order to share their perspectives, experiences and lessons learned and apply the acquired knowledge to their individual contexts and jobs while forging strategic alliances.

21. The Institute, in collaboration with its partner Programa Regional de Capacitación en Desarrollo Rural (PROCASUR), a regional NGO based in Santigo de Chile, organized the initiative "Pathways to learning in Central America (between Costa Rica and El Salvador, August 2008) and South America" (between Bolivia and Ecuador, September 2008). Altogether over 30 women participated in the initiative, including councilwomen, women mayors and representatives of women's associations. Participants visited municipalities that had made significant efforts to incorporate gender issues in their local governance with regard to services, legislation and affirmative actions to increase women's participation. The lessons learned from the initiative will be applied by participants in their work areas.

22. The Institute and the regional training programme on gender and public policies of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences in Argentina held a virtual expert round table on gender-sensitive public policies in Latin America in November 2008, with the objective of discussing gender-sensitive public policies in Latin America. Approximately 80 women from academic institutions, local and national governments, international institutions, political parties and civil society organizations participated in the virtual dialogue.

23. The Institute, in partnership with the Centre for Arab Women Training and Research based in Tunis, commenced activities in June on the project "Strengthening women's leadership and participation in politics and decision-making in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia", which was also financed by AECID. The project will be implemented over two years. The main objectives of the project are to share knowledge and experience on women's political participation at the national and subregional levels, to initiate a policy dialogue among key stakeholders, and to strengthen women's capacities to participate in politics and decision-making processes.

24. The first phase of this project will involve research studies and a media analysis of women's political participation in the three project countries. A series of initial meetings have been conducted with potential stakeholders of the project, including other United Nations agencies, NGOs, government entities and the media in order to begin building partnerships in support of the implementation of the project. A project brochure was also printed and distributed in French and Arabic.

25. The Institute presented its tool for analysis of electoral systems from a gender perspective at the international seminar entitled "Economic, social, cultural and environmental rights in perspective: demands from the women's movement", held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, from 7 to 9 August 2008. It aims to promote a better understanding of electoral systems to enhance women's political participation. The tool itself was evaluated favourably by a forum of experts through "iKnow Politics."[3] Plans are under way to transform the tool into an online learning instrument, to be launched on the Institute's website in early 2009.

[3] The International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics, an online workspace designed to serve the needs of elected officials, candidates, political party leaders and members, researchers, students and other practitioners interested in advancing women in politics.

26. An agreement was signed with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in support of the Observatory on Gender Parity in Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNIFEM. As part of this project, the Institute will contribute data, reports, capacity-building activities, and technical support to follow-up, analysis, information-sharing, and policymaking around issues of equality between women and men in economic, political and social areas.

27. The Institute, in collaboration with the National Women's Office of the Dominican Republic, Desarollo Municipal Centro Americano (DEMUCA) and Progressio, an international NGO with offices in the Dominican Republic, initiated the municipal gender-audit programme, which seeks to promote gender mainstreaming in the formulation, management and evaluation of public policies in seven municipalities of the Dominican Republic. The programme includes a series of training workshops for selected municipal representatives.

28. The Institute strengthened and established alliances with existing and new partners in support of its work on gender, governance and women's political participation. Agreements were signed with DEMUCA to strengthen the political participation of women at the local level in Central America, as well as with gender machinery in the Andean region (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru).

C. Gender, peace and security

29. In the area of gender, peace and security, the Institute has continued to explore the conceptual link between security sector reform, women, peace and security and human security as its main areas of work. To that end, a revised outline of the operational framework was prepared. The framework will serve as a basis for a conceptual working paper to be ready in early 2009. This paper will include a critical analysis of the concept of human security and its relationship to human development from a gender perspective, and will address the Institute's main areas of work in security sector reform and the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

30. A virtual dialogue on the theme "Gaps and challenges in gender, peace and security research", held in October 2008, will contribute to the preparation of the conceptual paper. The dialogue brought together over 100 researchers from around the world to exchange ideas and experiences on ongoing research related to human security and women, peace and security issues.

31. Together with the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, UNIFEM and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, the Institute co-organized an international conference on the theme "Crafting human security in an insecure world" (24-26 September, San Diego, California). During the conference, the Institute led a panel discussion on the theme "Advancing inclusive security in multiple settings: strategies, resources and good practices for security and civil sectors to prevent and respond to sexual violence in conflict-related settings", in which the Institute's work on gender and security sector reform was presented and discussed.

32. Conceptual explorations of the role of women's political participation in strengthening conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes, as well as the impact

of conflict and insecurity on cross-border migration strengthened synergies with other thematic areas dealt with by the Institute. These linkages will be included in the conceptual paper and future project proposals.

33. The Institute project entitled "Women, peace and security in Somalia: implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)", implemented in collaboration with the Associazione Diaspora e Pace,[4] was discussed at the International Conference on Women, Peace and Security in Somalia, held in Dar es Salaam, from 2 to 5 September 2008. The conference brought together over 40 women from Somalia and from the Somali diaspora with representatives of the Somali Transitional Federal Government in order to discuss gender dimensions of clan-based affiliations; the cultural and religious challenges to women's participation in the peacemaking and peacebuilding processes; and ways to enhance women's political role, including in the political elections scheduled for November 2009.

34. With the funding received from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, the Institute, in collaboration with UNFPA in the Dominican Republic, carried out an assessment of reproductive health and violence against women in post-disaster situations, looking specifically at vulnerable populations in the aftermath of tropical storm Noel. The project was launched on 9 October 2008 during a joint Institute/UNFPA event held in Santo Domingo on the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction. United Nations officials and representatives from the Dominican Government and civil society discussed the results and recommendations of the assessment in the context of disaster preparedness and response in the Dominican Republic.

35. The Institute is collaborating with the Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and International Alert to revise and publish the second edition of its guide to the development of national action plans on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), entitled *Securing Equality, Engendering Peace: A guide to policy and planning on women, peace and security*, which was originally published in 2006. As an input to this second edition, the Institute held in November 2008 a virtual dialogue on good practices and lessons learned from the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) at the national level. Over 100 participants from around the world participated in the dialogue, including women working in conflict and post-conflict settings.

36. With funding from the Government of Austria, the Institute initiated its project on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) in Liberia, in cooperation with the United Nations Mission in Liberia, to support efforts of the Ministry of Gender and Development to improve its gender sensitive planning. The Institute and the Ministry of Gender and Development are also collaborating to draft the Liberia national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

37. As part of its ongoing work on gender training for United Nations peacekeepers, the Institute commenced an interview series with women participants in United Nations peace support operations. Questionnaires were sent out to both the gender units and focal points in United Nations peacekeeping missions, as well as to individual women peacekeepers. The lessons learned will be posted on the Institute's interactive website on gender training for peacekeepers.

[4] A Somali women's association based in Italy.

38. The Institute's global database of gender, peace and security research institutions has been updated and is currently being redesigned. Plans are under way to capitalize on the database and dialogue in order to create a more permanent interactive network, with a view to eventually establishing a community of practice on gender, peace and security research.

IV. Resource mobilization and institutional development

A. Resource mobilization

39. In its resolution 52/3, the Commission on the Status of Women expressed satisfaction with the progress that the Institute had made in the area of resource mobilization, which had enabled the Institute to fully reimburse the subventions received in 2007, and to increase the level of voluntary funding from various donors.

40. As a result of the increased confidence shown by donors in the work of the Institute, the level of voluntary contributions to the Institute's regular operations has substantially increased, and the Institute is operating on the basis of its own resources received through voluntary contributions. The Institute has encouraged this trend and has intensified its efforts to increase the visibility of its work.

41. The financial situation of the INSTRAW Trust Fund (core activities) as at 30 November 2008 was as follows:

(United States dollars)

A. Income	
Voluntary contributions*	1 626 575.58
Interest income	26 173.46
Other/miscellaneous income	153 635.67
Total income	**1 806 384.71**
B. Expenditure	
Staff and other personnel costs	720 111.98
Travel	65 506.98
Contractual services	39 414.00
Operating expenses	54 233.35
Acquisitions	27 066.36
Total direct expenditure	**906 332.67**
Programme support costs	32 315.40
Total expenditure	**938 648.07**
Excess/shortfall of income over expenditure	867 736.64
Reserves and fund balances, beginning of period	1 567 342.43
Reserves and fund balances, end of period	2 435 079.07

* Voluntary contributions less voluntary contributions receivable of $311,425.48.

42. The Institute is currently negotiating multi-year funding with various potential donors, in keeping with its resource mobilization strategy and the recommendations of its Executive Board. This funding will provide sufficient resources to cover the Institute's core programme activities for a period of three years.

B. Institutional development

43. At the request of the INSTRAW Executive Board, the Department of Management of the United Nations Secretariat organized a workshop at the Institute headquarters, from 17 to 25 November 2008, to follow up on the previous workshop held in January 2008. The workshop reviewed and analysed the progress of the Institute in strengthening its institutional capacity and enhancing its positioning within the United Nations system and the global gender framework. It also outlined concrete measures to support the Institute in its efforts towards institutional strengthening, including issues related to management, programming and administrative procedures. The results of the workshop will be presented in a management letter from the Management Support Service of the Department of Management to the sixth session of the INSTRAW Executive Board to be held in early 2009.

V. Conclusions

44. **In 2008, the Institute continued to consolidate its strategic planning and implementation based on its strategic framework for 2008-2011, outlining an expanded research and training programme and its annual workplans and budgets for the biennium 2008-2009. The INSTRAW Executive Board continued to provide critical oversight to its programmes and formulate policies for the activities of the Institute. It approved the Institute's work programme and budget for 2009, and reported to the Economic and Social Council and, where appropriate, to the General Assembly.**

45. **The Institute is strategically positioned to cooperate with Governments, national mechanisms of gender equality, civil society and relevant United Nations entities on gender aspects of migration, gender-sensitive governance and women's political participation, and women and peace and security.**

46. **The Institute consolidated its research and training programmes and enhanced its knowledge management capacity to ensure that research results impact policy and programme development and implementation. It improved its collaboration with United Nations entities in the area of research, and strengthened its training and capacity-building programmes, as well as enhanced its formulation of policy recommendations for Member States and civil society.**

47. **The level of voluntary contributions to the Institute's regular operations has increased, allowing it to operate on the basis of resources received through voluntary contributions. Multi-year funding agreements were negotiated to ensure a more stable financial base. The Institute should continue to intensify its efforts to build on this progress and enhance its visibility, and impact United Nations system work on gender equality and women's empowerment.**